



# *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1020

**MICHAEL J. RODRIGUES**  
REPRESENTATIVE  
8TH BRISTOL DISTRICT

Rep.MichaelRodrigues@hou.state.ma.us

Vice-Chairman  
Committee on Public Service  
Member  
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Committee on Housing

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June 24, 2010

Dear Attorney General Coakley, Commissioner Auerbach, and members of the general public,

I write to you today in support of the proposed merger between Steward Health Care and Caritas Christi Health Care, which is the parent company of St. Anne's Hospital here in Fall River.

St. Anne's Hospital is a local institution and an essential part of the Fall River community. With 1300 people employed at St. Anne's Hospital, it is important to maintain and keep these jobs here in Fall River by approving this merger, which will help solidify these jobs for many more years to come.

The proposed merger between Steward Health Care and Caritas Christi will make St. Anne's Hospital a taxable entity that will generate much needed tax revenue for Fall River – the total tax revenue system-wide is estimated to be in excess of \$100 million over the first five years.

At a time when companies are leaving the Commonwealth because of the economic climate, there is a commitment here by Steward Health Care to ensure Caritas Christ remains a Massachusetts-based company.

Steward has committed \$100 million for Caritas hospitals, which proposes to generate more than 4,000 new jobs in MA, through new construction projects like the new Emergency Department, Operating Room Suite and Medical Office Building at St. Anne's. These projects will generate significant local benefits through immediate job growth and improved care delivered by the hospital.

In addition, this merger will continue to fund the Caritas and St. Anne's mission of providing high-quality low cost health care in the community. In 2009 St. Anne's had 5,600 patient discharges, 37,300 ER visits, and 82,000 outpatient visits.

Finally, Steward Health Care has made a commitment to host communities by pledging to maintain \$67 million in annual community benefit spending. At St. Anne's this commitment will help preserve programs like:

- Youth Trauma Program - provides an increasing volume of comprehensive evaluation and counseling services to children, ages three to 21, who have been victims of sexual abuse, violence, witness to homicide, and other trauma situations.
- Diabetes prevention and outreach - as part of a multi-pronged effort to prevent, as well as manage, the disease, the SAH diabetes program engages in ongoing outreach efforts.

Moving forward, I ask that you give every consideration and support to this proposed merger between Caritas Christi Health Care and Steward Health Care. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Rodriguez", is written over the printed name.

Michael J. Rodriguez

State Representative

8<sup>th</sup> Bristol District – Fall River and Westport